

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I have been dismayed in recent years by the increased corporate control of the media and the consequent reduction in the opportunity for true free speech - that is information which presents a range of opinions and allows people to make their own decisions rather than being swayed by propaganda.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Such actions as a decision by the large controlling corporation to air a smear piece about Kerry do not serve the public interest. Instead we need to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.